

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

---

A NEW BLACKBIRD (AVES) FROM WESTERN CHINA

BY H. G. DEIGNAN\*

Examination of the series of blackbirds, *Turdus merula* subsp., in the collection of the United States National Museum, has shown the existence of a hitherto unrecognized race in the western Chinese province of Szechwan. In honor of my friend Arthur de Carle Sowerby, the well-known naturalist-explorer of China, I propose to call it

*Turdus merula sowerbyi*, subsp. nov.

*Type*.—United States National Museum No. 277524, adult [male], collected at Loshan [Kiating], Szechwan Province, China, on March 2, 1924, by David C. Graham.

*Diagnosis*.—The adult male of *T. m. sowerbyi* has the upper parts a uniform, unglossed sooty black (deeper and with less suggestion of brownish suffusion than appears in the same sex of *T. m. mandarinus*), and the under parts a deep brownish sooty black (much darker than the grayish-brownish soot color of these parts in *mandarinus*).

The adult female of *sowerbyi* has the upper parts a brownish sooty black (deeper and with less brownish suffusion than is seen in the same sex of *mandarinus*), and the under parts a dark rust-washed sooty brown (much darker than the rust-washed grayish-brownish soot color of these parts in *mandarinus*).

*Specimens examined*.—*Turdus m. mandarinus*: 9 males, 8 females; *T. m. sowerbyi*: 7 males, 7 females.

*Remarks*.—The only name that needed to be considered as possibly applicable to the Szechwan bird is *Turdus wulsini* Riley (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 38, Nov. 13, 1925, p. 115), based upon a blackbird from Hingi [Hwangtsaopa], in extreme southwestern Kweichow Province. The type specimen of *Turdus wulsini* has proved to be a subadult of *Turdus m. mandarinus*.

\*Published with permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

